OPINION

CLIDCO action needed

By DAVID BAUM

Whether or not Fairchild-Weston decides to locate their new engineering nuclear division facility in Fell Twp., one crystal clear result of the entire effort is that the forces of CLIDCO are needed now more than ever.

As a driving force years ago when formed in the 1950's to promote business in the city, the Carbondale Lackawanna Industrial Development Corporation did quite a bit to help the area economy. Staffed by knowledgeable area businessmen, they strove for economic development in the area and obtained results. The Triangle Pacific Cabinet plant, the move the of Hendrick Manufacturing Company within the city, the building of the Ethyl Corporation Visqueen Division on Pike Street and the recent assistance to the new Glass Products, Inc., company are just a few projects which CLIDCO was heavily involved in so this area, Carbondale in particular, could progress economically. Other projects CLIDCO helped were the Pizza Crust plant locating here, the Fleetwood Tioga plant and the Fab-Weld facility.

When it was started, many people made substantial contributions to the corporation so it could reach its goal -- bringing economic growth into Carbondale and the area. Through many hours of toil, labor and negotiations, CLIDCO was able to produce results that benefitted both the companies, residents of Carbondale and the city as a whole.

Over the past several decades, Carbondale has been declining in population and in economic progress. The CLIDCO projects have helped save what is now left of one of America's most industrious cities. If it weren't for those projects, who knows what Carbondale would be like today.

It is unfortunate that those trying to get Fairchild-Weston to locate in Fell Twp. don't have enough time, it seems, to process all the work needed to attract the firm's new facility which will employ 500 people. If given enough time, I am sure CLIDCO will help in any way possible to locate the plant in Fell Twp. Although the possibility isn't dead yet, things look dim.

But the good point brought out of this effort is that CLIDCO is needed now more than ever to push for economic development. I am sure all those on the CLIDCO board realize that if this area doesn't get cracking and promote itself and attract new industry, the loss of businesses will continue and even more people will leave Carbondale and the surrounding area.

It will be up to men such as those presently on CLIDCO to stand up and be counted, to say "I will not let this happen to my hometown, I wil not let it continue to regress, I will do everything in my power to turn things around."

To solve problems one must take the bull by the horns, be aggressive and not let the bull run over you. The dog must wag the tail, not the tail the dog. For if that happens to Carbondale in this decade, she will cease to be a third class city due to a loss in population and from there a ghost town environment will not be far behind.